

## **FINAL**

### **SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT ANNOUNCES**

**Academy Award® winner HANS ZIMMER**

**TO SCORE**

**“CASI DIVAS”**

### **THE SECOND FEATURE FROM ITS LOCAL LANGUAGE PRODUCTION ENTITY IN MEXICO**

**CULVER CITY, CA, October xx, 2007** -- Columbia Pictures Producciones México, the local production arm of Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) announced today that Hans Zimmer, the Academy Award® winning composer (THE LION KING), will score the music for its comedy CASI DIVAS (ROAD TO FAME).

Currently in post-production, the second film from its local language production unit in Mexico was written and directed by Issa López (EFECTOS SECUNDARIOS), who also co-wrote the screenplay for the company's first local production, NIÑAS MAL (CHARM SCHOOL) and wrote LADIES' NIGHT, two highly successful films in Mexico. Lopez also recently received the Mexican Institute of Fine Arts award for best novel, one Mexico's highest literary awards.

Like NIÑAS MAL, the film is based on an idea and story treatment by SPRI Executive Vice President of Creative Advertising Ignacio Darnaude. CASI DIVAS was produced by Luz Maria Rojas (*Once Upon a Time in Mexico, Mask of Zorro*).

Issa López said: “Hans Zimmer’s music is already a part of the fondest memories of more than one generation. Anyone exposed to movies in any corner of the world has been moved by his creations. Having a musician as talented and as passionate as Hans composing for “Casi Divas” is a gift and a privilege.”

Hans Zimmer responded, “I am thrilled with the opportunity to work with a new young film-maker with innovative vision, like Issa, who is bringing a fresh voice to film.”

Gareth Wigan, Vice Chairman Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Group commented, "Hans's visionary and unique orchestrations across all film genres have astounded audiences worldwide. His genius in capturing and enhancing the mood of a film is masterful, and we are honored to have him as part of the creative team on our most recent international comedy, CASI DIVAS."

Deborah Schindler, President of International Motion Picture Production added: "Bringing in one of Hollywood's top composers to collaborate with our very talented local Mexican filmmaker is an exciting proposition. Based on Hans' innate ability to immerse himself in the culture of each film the works on, we are anticipating a highly unique score for CASI DIVAS."

Hans Zimmer is one of Hollywood's preeminent composers, renown for being a pioneer in integrating electronic music with traditional orchestral arrangements. Originally a pop musician with the hit band The Buggles (“Video Killed The Radio Star”), Zimmer’s first score for film was for the acclaimed independent feature MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE in collaboration with his mentor Stanley Myers in 1985. He followed this by scoring two Best Picture Oscar® winners: RAIN MAN, for which he also received his first Academy Award® nomination for Best Original Score, followed by Best Picture winner, DRIVING MISS DAISY. His score for THE LION KING, which has sold over 15 million copies to date, earned him an Academy Award® for Best Original Score, A Golden Globe, An American Music Award, A Tony and two Grammys. A frequent collaborator of director Ridley Scott, Zimmer’s

GLADIATOR score became one of the best selling film score albums of all time. He has to date received 7 Academy Awards® nominations for features including THE LAST SAMURI, AS GOOD AS IT GETS, THE PRINCE OF EGYPT, THE THIN RED LINE, and THE PREACHER'S WIFE. His recent film score credits include: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST, THE SIMPSONS MOVIE, and prior to that BATMAN BEGINS and MADAGASCAR. Upcoming features include the animated feature KUNG FU PANDA. Zimmer also received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in Film Composition from the National Board of Review.

CASI DIVAS is the story of four ambitious and beautiful young women from four very different corners of Mexico. Just like hundreds of others, they are caught up in the frenzy that sweeps the nation when ALEJANDRO MATEOS, one of the country's most powerful producers, dreams up a massive, nationwide talent search to cast the lead in his next big movie. But all this is news to Alejandro's on-again, off-again lover, EVA GALLARDO, a temperamental diva of epic proportions, who expected to play the part. While Eva schemes to nail down the role, our four leads will do whatever it takes for a chance to be cast. As CASI DIVAS unfolds and comedic sparks fly, they will all discover who will eventually and surprisingly become the country's new superstar.

CASI DIVAS stars Patricia Llaca (*La Habitación Azul, Efectos Secundarios*), Julio Bracho (*Cansada de Besar Sapos, 7 Dias*), Maya Zapata (*De la Calle, Morirse en Domingo*), Ana Layevska (*Cansada de Besar Sapos*), Diana Garcia (*Drama/Mex*) and Daniela Schmidt (*Sea of Dreams, Corazón Marchito*).

International distribution of the titles from Columbia Pictures Producciones México is handled by Sony Pictures Releasing International.

The mandate of Columbia Pictures Producciones México is to develop new projects as well as to continue to invest in and acquire local product. In addition to producing NINAS MAL, Sony previously acquired EL CRIMEN DEL PADRE AMARO, which became the biggest Mexican film of all time. The establishment of the Mexican production entity was part the ramping up of Sony's international production activity, and it now has established local production presences in East Asia, France, Italy, Spain, Brazil and most recently India and Russia.

Columbia TriStar Film Productions Asia, established in 1998, was responsible for the production of the Oscar-winning hit CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON. This was followed by another SPE local-language production success, Stephen Chow's box-office phenomenon KUNG FU HUSTLE, which has grossed over \$100 million worldwide. In 2006, the company released its first Spanish-Italian local language feature, MELISSA P., a co-production, between Sony Pictures Releasing Italia S.R.L. and Columbia Films Producciones Españolas, which opened at the number one position at the Italian box office. In Brazil, the official 2005 Academy entry for Best Foreign Language Film, TWO SONS OF FRANCISCO, was a Columbia Tristar Filmes do Brasil co-production with Conspiração Filmes, Globo Filmes and ZCL Produções Artísticas, and became the highest domestic-grossing Brazilian film of all time.

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